

Hypothesis Concerning the Etiology of Statistically Increased Probability of Disease in Infants Born During Winter

Sometime in 2021

Simon Edwards

Research Acceleration Initiative

Introduction

A slight but statistically significant increase in the likelihood of diseases of all types, including and especially psychiatric ailments exists for those born during the winter months. This, when combined with the ancient observation that differences in personality associated with the season of birth do indeed exist, is good cause to scientifically examine the potential external influences which may result in these observed effects upon health and personality.

Abstract

I propose that a variety of factors which revolve around altered biological and social patterns during the warmer months provide health benefits to infants born in the late spring. During the crucial first months of life, immune system dynamics are determined, in part, by Vitamin D levels. Thus, exposure to sunlight is critical for an infant. New mothers are more likely to take their infants out in a stroller during the summer months and a greater amount of ultraviolet radiation is extant during these months, stimulating the production of Vitamin D. With enhanced immune system functionality, cancer risk can be expected to decrease.

As infants are less prone to be isolated during the summer months, infants born during the late spring have maximal opportunities for social interactions as well as learning experiences.

While all new mothers have a tendency to keep an infant indoors during the first few days, or, perhaps, week of life (there is no medical reason for doing this,) the average length of during which postpartum mothers keep their infants indoors is far-greater during the winter months. This may explain why winter babies are more likely to develop personality problems later in life than those born in the spring or summer.

Any potential statistical effect upon health risk or personality can be studied not only by analyzing differences between those born in various seasons, but by analyzing differences between people living at different latitudes. Personality problems associated with isolation early in life are statistically less likely in countries closer to the equator where sunshine is ample for most of the year.

An extant but less significant effect which may contribute to these phenomena is what is known as radiation hormesis, whereby exposure to slightly increased levels of background radiation in the X-Ray band stimulates the immune response. Radiation hormesis in the X-Ray band may account for observed season-based differences in health outcomes even under the condition that children are kept, by and large, indoors.

Conclusion

X-Rays, given their ability to penetrate opaque objects, would be present even indoors, would vary depending upon season and latitude and could form the basis of an unseen force helping new human beings to calibrate their circadian clocks.